

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IBADAN 00326 180400Z POSS DUPE
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
CU-04 AID-05 PC-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
/082 W

-----036910 190651Z /14

R 171110Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL IBADAN
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2796
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L IBADAN 0326

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ELAB NI SEDU
SUBJECT: STRIKES IN UNIFE AND ONDO STATE SCHOOLS

REF: LAGOS 3278 (NOTAL)

PER YOUR REQUEST REFTEL, HERE IS STATUS OF UNIVERSITY OF
IFE STRIKE/LOCKOUT AND ONDO STATE TEACHERS STRIKE/CLOSURE.

1. STRIKE AND RIOT OF STUDENTS AT UNIFE STARTED MONDAY
MARCH 6 AS REPORTED IBADAN 271. AS SEEN BY USIS PERSONNEL,
STUDENTS SEALED OFF UNIVERSITY GATE AND PREVENTED OFFICIALS
AND ATTENDEES FROM ENTERING AND OPENING BOOK FAIR/WEEK.
STUDENTS WERE VOCAL AND HELD PLACARDS PROTESTING BAD FOOD,
LACK OF WATER, AND POWER CUT OFFS AT UNIVERSITY. LATER
IN DAY, STUDENTS THREW ROCKS AT BOOK FAIR AND PREVENTED
IT FROM OPENING. FOOD VAN WAS SEIZED BY STUDENTS PREVENTING
THE EVENING MEAL FROM BEING SERVED AT THE STAFF CLUB. BY
AFTERNOON VICE CHANCELLOR HAD REQUESTED AND OBTAINED
POLICE ESCORT AND RETURNED TO THE UNIVERSITY. A CURFEW
WAS IMPOSED, AND NO CLASSES WERE HELD THAT DAY OR NEXT.
THE NEXT DAY, CLASSES WERE SUSPENDED BY THE UNIVERSITY,
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PAGE 02 IBADAN 00326 180400Z POSS DUPE

AND THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN CARRYING STORIES OF ATTEMPTS
TO GET THE STUDENTS TO ACCEPT DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND TO
MAKE PROMISES OF GOOD BEHAVIOR. PICTURES OF APPALLING
CONDITIONS AT UNIVERSITY ABOUND. GEN. OBASANJO FULLY SUPP-
ORTED UNIV. AUTHORITIES ON HIS VISIT THERE MARCH 10 (IBADAN
308).
COMMENT: UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES RESPONDED VIGOROUSLY AND

HARSHLY TO SHORT OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE AND RESTRAINT OF OFFICIALS AND HAVE NOT BUDGED FROM THEIR POSITION. STUDENTS ARE ACTING CONCILIATORY AND CRISIS SHOULD PASS SHORTLY.

2. SHUT-DOWN OF ONDO STATE SCHOOLS FOLLOWED ON SAME DAY AS UNIVERSITY ACTION, MARCH 7. ONDO STATE EDUCATION COMMISSIONER FOLAYAN WAS OFFICIAL WHO WAS TO OPEN BOOK FAIR AND WAS TURNED BACK BY STUDENTS. VIOLENCE BY STUDENTS OVER WEEKEND AND CONTINUATION OF TEACHER'S STRIKE LED COMMISSIONER TO CLOSE SCHOOLS. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES IN THE STATE, ONDO TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS ARE PROTESTING OVER ONDO STATE FAILURE TO RE-ALIGN SALARY AND GRADE STRUCTURE ALONG SAME LINES AS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OYO AND OGUN STATES. SINCE ONDO IS TRADITIONAL SOURCE OF TEACHERS FOR YORUBALAND, THIS WAS PARTICULARLY KEENLY FELT. AT MEETING DESIGNED TO DISCUSS AND SETTLE QUESTION, MIL GOV WING CMDR. IKPEME IS SAID TO HAVE MADE REMARK TO EFFECT HE DID NOT CARE WHAT WENT ON IN SCHOOLS IN ONDO SINCE HE HAD NO CHILDREN THERE. (HE IS FROM CROSS-RIVER) TEACHERS RETURNED TO THEIR AREAS AND PRESUMABLY INCITED SOME STUDENTS TO VIOLENCE. COMMISSIONER RETALIATED BY CLOSING SCHOOL, AND THERE IT STANDS.

COMMENT: ANOTHER ISSUE APPEARS TO BE OVER UNANIMOUS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE ONDO CENTRAL SCHOOLS BOARD, LADY JIBOWU. AFFAIR WILL PROBABLY SOON BE SETTLED WHEN FACE-SAVING WAY IS FOUND TO ADJUST SALARIES

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PAGE 03 IBADAN 00326 180400Z POSS DUPE

AND SACK LADY JIBOWU.
HOYT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978IBADAN00326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-0724
Format: TEL
From: IBADAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780356/aaaabuvx.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e9817c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 3278
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3294407
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRIKES IN UNIFE AND ONDO STATE SCHOOLS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SEDU, NI
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e9817c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014